The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Logic is the art of convincing us of some truth.—Bruyere.

WHOLE NO. 1124. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 22, NO. 33.

Nonpartisan Political Policy

The nonpartisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor has been applied for so many years that it is one of Labor's fundamental principles.

This policy declares that working men and women should support principles rather than political parties and vote for candidates who are friendly to labor and against those who are unfriendly rather than blindly follow party labels and obey the dictates of party bosses.

In a recent address in Philadelphia on political partisanship, Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska strongly defended the A. F. of L. principle. He said:

"There is nothing sacred about a political party. It is only an instrumentality. There is no reason why men's judgment should be corrupted because of a false belief in loyalty or regularity to a party. It is because of the growth of this party spirit that machines have grown up in political parties, and, by controlling political parties, they control the Government of the United States.

"The modern slogan of political bosses is: 'Stand by your party, right or wrong; be regular though the Government falls.'

"And these same bosses try to teach the rising generations that party regularity is the very essence of citizenship, when, as a matter of fact, party regularity is very often the concealment of crime and debauchery—the covering up of evil and the robbing of the people of their very fundamental rights of human freedom.

"If our party is wrong, we ought to criticize it and, if necessary, condemn it.

"When special interests nominate candidates for us to vote for, when we know that these candidates stand for principles of Government in which we do not believe, we ought not to hesitate to vote against them and bring about their defeat.

"This is only performing our duty to our Government, which, as we have seen, is the duty we owe our families, our homes, and our fellow-men. * * *"

The nonpartisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor is the practical application of the principle described by Senator Norris. To Organized Labor and its friends the A. F. of L. says:

"Stand faithfully by our friends and elect them. Oppose our enemies and defeat them."

The decisive factor in applying this policy is not the political party to which a candidate for public office belongs, but his record on matters of interest to labor.

Disfranchising the Unemployed

According to reports from England the Local Authorities Economy Committee, set up by the Tory Government under the leadership of Ramsay MacDonald, former labor premier, is considering the recommendation of disfranchisement of the poor in that country.

The Government fears, it is said, a political upheaval will result from the ever-increasing number of unemployed workers driven to seek poor relief under the anti-labor administration of the unemployment insurance act under which insurance benefits are either stopped or reduced below the subsistence point.

The Daily Herald, the official organ of the British Labor movement, vigorously condemns the disfranchising proposal in the following vigorous language:

"We trust that the Government will pursue the path of justice and common sense, and turn down with a dull thud the proposal to rob recipients of poor law relief of the vote.

"This has been a pet idea of a section of rabid Conservatives for a long time.

"It now threatens to emerge from the realm of advocacy to that of possible legislation.

"At the end of June there were 1,180,616 persons in England and Wales in receipt of poor law relief.

"In that total—the figures must have increased since—are nearly half a million workless with their dependents.

"These are the people deprived of unemployment benefit and thrust on to the poor law.

"The fact that they have forfeited benefits suggests that they are the least fortunate, the most hardpressed, section of the 3,000,000 of our fellow-countrymen out of work.

"To add to their sufferings by depriving them of the elementary right of citizenship is an injustice which few will lightly brook.

"Mr. MacDonald has shown commendable concern about the Untouchables of India.

"Is it conceivable that he will consent to the creation of a class of political untouchables in this country?"

Depriving citizens of their right to vote because of poverty brought about by long-continued unemployment, it was recently accomplished in the State of Maine under regulations which prescribed that persons who had received poor relief for a specified number of months should not be permitted to participate in elections.

It is the application of the property qualification for the exercise of the franchise, a despicable principle held by those who believe that Governments among men are specifically designed for the benefit of the wealthy and their property-owning satellites.

The installation of the right to vote to property owners is a complete denial of those principles of liberty and equality which are the foundation of democratic and republican institutions.

Those who resort to it are laying the foundation for a justifiable social unrest pregnant with menace to political institutions.

Flozdal Condemns Proposed Wage Cut for Railway Employes

Maintenance of Way Union President Says Starvation Wages of $6 and $9 Per Week Now Prevail—Prosperity Will Not Begin Until Pay Reductions Stop.

Detroit, Mich.—A vigorous protest against wage reductions generally and against wage reductions of railroad employes particularly" is made by F. H. Flozdal, president of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, in an editorial in the official journal of that organization, entitled "Shall the Railroads 'Make It Out' of Their Employes?"

Pointing out that the voluntary 10 per cent wage reduction agreed to by the officials of the railroad unions early this year has resulted in "a further falling off in business" and more layoffs of employes than ever before and more trouble" for the railroads, Mr. Flozdal continues:

"Through information in the daily press it is learned that the railroads intend to submit a 20 per cent reduction in pay for all the railroad employes, regardless of what may have been the lesson in the past year.

"Again we propose that the buying power of more than one and one-half million railroad employes, most of whom have already been trimmed both by wage-reductions, lay-offs and in other ways, shall be further reduced.

"The action of the railroads is setting a bad example for business generally. The result of further railroad wage reductions, if the railroads have their way, will only deepen the depression, will retard a business recovery and might lead to other serious consequences that need not be discussed at this time.

"The wage-cutting policy of the railroads must come to an end. If the railroads cannot operate without slashing the already meager wages of their employes they have no moral right to be considered business enterprises of the first order.

"Their actions are gestures of desperate men who act without regard to the human equation involved.

"There is no reason why railroad employes should be deprived of a decent living and livelihood while holders of railroad securities are sitting safe, drawing their full percentage of interest.

"We register here a strong protest against wage-reductions generally and against wage-reductions of railroad employes particularly.

"Members of the Maintenance of Way profession have suffered tremendously in the past two years. Wage-reduction in effect now coupled with the lay-off and part-time work of thousands, has forced wages as low as six and nine dollars per week have been a common occurrence, merely enough to starve men to death slowly, especially those who have families to support.

"In the end the railroads cannot exist at the expense of their employes; other methods must be adopted.

"When wage-cuts cease in all industries including the railroads, and a reasonable adjustment of working time is made, we shall be on our way to recovery.

"Wage-cuts and long hours will put us deeper in the mire.

"Will the railroads lead still further into the wilderness or will they help to set us upon firm ground again?"

Wilson Condemns Antilabor Court Decisions and Injunction Edicts

President of Pattern Makers League Says Judges Show Bias Against Labor in Applying Antitrust Laws—Injunctions Deprive Workers of Constitutional Rights and Liberties.

Cincinnati, Ohio—Vigorous condemnation of federal courts which interpret antitrust laws against Organized Labor and issue injunctions in labor disputes although they ignore the "fundamental rights characterized a radio address here on Labor and Judicial Reform" by James Wilson, president of the Pattern Makers' League of North America and fourth vice president of the American Federation of Labor.

In discussing the antilabor attitude of the courts in their interpretation of the Sherman antitrust law, enacted for the alleged purpose of curbing the growing power of business combinations and trusts, Mr. Wilson said:

Antilabor Supreme Court Decisions

"From 1890 until 1897, when the Supreme Court rendered its first decision under the statute against a business combination, the Sherman Act could be had held in only one case that such a combination had violated the law.

"On the other hand, they had during this same period declared certain activities of labor unions to be violations of the act on twelve different occasions.

"This use of the Sherman Act intended to restrain monopolies continues against labor to the present time.

"The courts have so extended the act that it has been used to punish in a number of activities generally conceded legal at the time of its passage.

"It seems that the marked change in the attitude of the courts is necessary to free organized labor from its restrictions."

Injunctions in Labor Disputes

On the specific question of injunctions in labor disputes, Mr. Wilson said in part:

"In 1892 the first injunction was issued in a labor dispute in the famous Debs case. It marked the beginning of judicial interference in the business of industrial relations.

"The Federal courts, vested with powers both in law and equity, began to enjoin workers from doing those things which they had a legal right to do. These courts of equity were used to impede the progress of labor. Through the process of the writ of injunction, workers were denied the right of organizing for the purpose of advancing their welfare. Injunctions have, in fact, been issued that deny not the right to quit work; the right to give information to others that a strike exists or to make any public appearance to the existence of such strike. Men have been denied the right of free speech, even from providing food and shelter to those who were on strike.

"A study of the State and Federal injunctions issued against working men denying them the right to peacefully and by their mutual advancement reveals the continued denial of many constitutional rights and is one of the blackest blotches upon our entire national history.

Clayton Law Fails

"To deal with the injustices of governance by injunction labor secured the enactment of the Clayton Bill by the Congress of the United States. It was expected that this would eliminate the injunction, but it was so construed by the courts that it was intensified and made more drastic the decisions of the courts instead of carrying out the purposes of the law. This intensified the struggle for equal rights before the law and finally political parties in convention declared against the abuse of the writ of injunction and pledged the enactment of legislation that would stop this usurped power and would restore freedom to all of the people of our country.

Norris-LaGuardia Injunction Law

"Finally the Congress of the United States passed in March of this year the Norris-LaGuardia Bill which was signed by President Hoover. This legislation marks a great advance in the struggle of labor for equality before the law. This law not only outlaws the 'yellow-dog' contract, but it legalizes certain concerted activities that were illegal and curtails the use of the injunction in labor disputes."

Mr. Wilson's address was the seventh in a series on current labor problems given every Friday over the Columbian Standard Time under the sponsorship of the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education with the cooperation of the Workers' Education Bureau of America, the American Federation of Labor, and the University of Chicago Press.

Scottish Co-operative Lands 400,000 Bacon Wrapper Order

Dundee, Scotland.—The Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's jute mills here received an order from the Danish Co-operative Slaughter Houses for 250,000 bacon wrappers. The order, valued at 10,000 pounds sterling, was placed after recent British-Danish trade talks in Copenhagen.

It was the largest single order ever received and covers a period up to April next year.

The contract was secured in face of keen competition. Since it was placed jute mills have been working overtime to orders through their agents, which brings the total up to almost 400,000 wrappers.

The wrappers are made of canvas, and are largely used in the export of bacon and hams to Britain. The bacon is wrapped in them to protect it from damage, and it is a common thing for several hundredweights to be encased in one wrapping.

An enormous part of the trade of Denmark is organized through co-operative associations, and the British co-operatives claim the growth of co-operative exchange of goods in one of the reasons for the vitriolic attacks of the London Daily Express upon the Danish Exhibition and all who took part in it.

British Transport Group Strike Against Wage Cut

London, England.—About 100 Briton Ferry shipbreakers struck work against a wage cut of three shillings a week.

"We have reached a stage," said Ald. John Donovan, area secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, "when we must stop employers attempting to cut wages without consultation or negotiation."

DEFEAT BINGHAM, ELECT LONERGAN, GREEN URGES

President of American Federation of Labor Says Connecticut Senator Has Never Cast a Vote for Labor Legislation in Congress—Claims Record of Lonergan, Bingham's Opponent, Is Nearly Perfect.

Washington—All working men and women and their friends in the State of Connecticut should mobilize their efforts to defeat Senator Hiram Bingham for re-election to the United States Senate, declared William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter sent to organized labor in that State.

Declaring that Senator Bingham "has never voted in favor of any labor legislation before Congress," Mr. Green urged the organized workers and their friends to elect Representative Augustine Lonergan, whose labor record in Congress is nearly perfect, in place of Bingham the reactionary.

Mr. Green said:

"The people of Connecticut have before them in the coming election an opportunity of defeating the most persistent enemy of labor in the United States Senate.

"As you know determined efforts will be made in the next session of Congress to reduce the wages of government employes.

"It is therefore necessary that a United States Senator be elected who will not be influenced by those who would bring labor down to the European standard.

"Senator Bingham has never voted in favor of any labor legislation before Congress.

"In the six years he has been a member of the Senate he voted either against the interest of labor and failed to vote once.

"He voted against the passage of the bill abolishing the Railroad Labor Board and preventing for collective bargaining against differential pay for night work in the postal service, against the protection of free labor in the competition of convict made goods, against the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction bill and against prohibiting the use of convict labor on public roads for which the government made partial appropriations.

"On top of all the unfavorable votes he supported with all the vigor of his antagonistic nature the confirmation of the appointment of Judge Parker to be a member of the United States Supreme Court.

"Judge Parker as you know upheld the 'yellow-dog' contract. He also went out of his way to decide it was lawful.

"Senator Bingham's opponent is Representative Augustine Lonergan, who has served four terms in Congress and in all that time has one unfavorable vote out of twenty.

"In the last Congress he voted for the anti-injunction bill, against prohibiting increases in wages and the filling of vacancies in the post office bill, for Philippine independence, against abolishing the Saturday half holidays and cutting wages of government employes from ten to twenty per cent.

"Permit me to appeal to the trade unionism of the organized workers and their sympathetic friends to use every effort to defeat the re-election of Senator Bingham.

"Committees should be appointed in every union to aid in this work.

"It should not be forgotten that the direct influence of the Non-Partisan Political Campaign is to 'stand by our friends and defeat our enemies.'"

PUBLIC WORKS ENDORSED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

Postal Workers International Also Urges International Money and Industrial Treaties to Restore Prosperity—Asks Boycott of Governments Violating Kellogg Peace Pact.

Lucerne, Switzerland.—The 1932 congress of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Workers International, meeting here, confirmed the resolution for combating the industrial crisis which was adopted by the last session of the International Labor Conference on motion of the workers' group. The recommendations included drawing up a list of large national and international public works on a scale comprehensive enough to encourage economic development, laying down the foundations of a stable international monetary system, and the examination in collaboration with organizations of employers and workers of the problems of production and international trade for the purpose of concluding such international conventions as will ensure the resumption of economic activity.

In view of the fact that this resolution will be considered by the next assembly of the League of Nations, the congress demanded that each national section of the Postal International should urge the Government of its country to ask the delegates to the assembly to support the resolution of the International Labor Conference.

For the maintenance of international peace the congress urged "governments to institute a boycott against a country whose government refuses to submit, in accordance with the spirit of the Kellogg Pact, a dispute to the International Court at The Hague, and which makes the dispute as a pretext for an act of war."

French Food Workers Oppose Night Work in Bakeries

Paris, France.—The National Federation of Workers in the Food Industry here has begun a campaign against a bill introduced in the French Senate by Mr. Justice Godart to authorize night work in bread factories which could be regarded as working on continuous processes and urged the Minister of Labor to oppose the measure and secure its withdrawal.

The French labor code prohibits the employment of workers in the manufacture of bread and pastry during the night. The Paris employers organized in the Chamber of Commerce took the position that all laws prohibiting the manufacture of bread and pastry at night should be repealed. The workers' organizations, on the other hand, strongly fought any change in the law, as proposed by the Godart bill, on the ground that it would lead in practice to the disappearance of the prohibition of night work.

GOVERNMENT WORKERS ENDORSE 5-DAY WEEK

First Convention of American Federation of Government Employes Also Approves Equitable Job Classification and Liberal Retirement Law.

Washington.—The first convention of the American Federation of Government Employes, held here, adopted a legislative program which emphasizes the need for the five-day week and an adequate and equitable job classification system for Federal workers.

The five points of the program are:

"Restoration of pay and privileges lost or reduced by operation of the economy act.

"Definite legislative extension of proper job classification to the field services in harmony with our affiliation insofar as the alternative of wage board action for certain workers may be deemed more desirable, and wherever possible, strengthen classification already established by the Federal legislative order. We oppose enactments (such as that discriminating against married persons) which violate a sound principle of job classification.

"Strengthen the provisions of the retirement act, especially in securing additional legislation to extend further the optional features and to improve the retirement annuities.

"Support the application as it may become possible within the Government service for the five-day week as defined by the American Federation of Labor, namely, the five-day work week with not loss of pay or equivalent privileges.

"Study and plan towards the introduction of legislation that will give employes representation on executive boards dealing with employment policy and working conditions throughout the Government service, including employe representation on the Civil Service Commission."

Officers Elected

The convention elected the following officers: John Arthur Shaw, Washington, D. C., president; John R. Newman, Washington, D. C., secretary; Charles J. McLane, Washington, D. C., treasurer; Fred W. Glass, Washington, D. C., first vice president; C. Grant Frick, Brooklyn, second vice president; C. Le-Gardeur, Washington, third vice president; George L. Jeffrey, Washington, fourth vice president; Mrs. W. Thornton, Providence, R. L. fifth vice president; Fred Sommers, Baltimore, sixth vice president; Miss Esther Penn, Seattle, seventh vice president; Miss Ruth Reynolds, Washington, eighth vice president; John F. Daniels, Philadelphia, ninth vice president.

The next annual convention will be held in Chicago, Ill.

FORTY-HOUR WEEK WITHOUT WAGE CUTS OR DISMISSALS

Bevin Says Rationalization Economies Go to Workers in More Leisure.

Wolverhampton, England. — The Transport and General Workers Union and Mander Brothers, a Wolverhampton paint manufacturing firm, varnish ink, reached an important agreement for the 40-hour week.

According to the correspondent of the London Daily Herald, the firm decided on a new layout of plant, a rationalized method of production, and a 40-hour week at the same rate of piece rates.

It applied in the ordinary way these changes would have resulted in the discharge of a number of workers.

But as the result of negotiation an agreement was reached establishing a 40-hour week at the same rate of wages, as a minimum, that was previously paid for 47 hours.

Mr. Ernest Bevin, secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, "that the results from the new rationalized system will go to the workers in the form of increased leisure, and not of unemployment. At the other end it avoids discharges.

"Whatever the result of the system there is to be no discharge of any person for six months during the reorganization.

"Further, the firm has a pension scheme, and if a reduction of staff is found to be necessary there is an agreement that the principle shall be met by using the pension arrangements and compensation for workers displaced."

CONNECTICUT TRADE UNIONS OPPOSE SENATOR BINGHAM

Meriden Nonpartisan Labor Conference Declares Connecticut Senator Is Arch Enemy of Labor and Urges Voters to Elect Lonergan in His Place.

Meriden, Conn.—Determined opposition to the re-election of Hiram Bingham to the United States Senate was declared by Labor's Conference Committee of Meriden, a nonpartisan group, at a meeting here attended by John J. Egan, secretary-treasurer of the Connecticut State Federation of Labor; Samuel E. Beardsley, secretary-treasurer of the International Jewelry Workers Union; Alexander Marsh, general organizer of the American Federation of Labor; A. G. Hess, president of the Meriden Central Labor Union, and the presidents and secretaries of various local unions.

A resolution adopted by the conference declared that Senator Bingham in voting against all the labor measures which have come before the United States Senate has demonstrated that he is that body.

The conference was especially emphatic in condemning him for his vote in favor of sending Judge Parker to the Supreme Court. "He supported with all the vigor he possessed," the resolution says, "the nomination by President Hoover of Judge Parker to be a member of the United States Supreme Court, Judge Parker being a judge who went out of his way to uphold the 'yellow dog' contract, a scheme of industrial slavery that even the millionaire Senator Bingham has repudiated. He would not sign even if he were a workingman and starving. Yet Senator Bingham voted to place on the United States Supreme Court this judge who is responsible for a decision dear to the contract legal."

The conference expressed its complete endorsement of Representative Augustine Lonergan for the Senate in place of Bingham. The resolution pointed out that Lonergan's record on labor measures in Congress has been one of continued friendliness for labor and urged all wage earners in the State to vote for him in the November election.

Green Gives Complete Support To Federal Workers' Demands

$10,000,000 MONTHLY FOR NEW YORK RELIEF

State Relief Administration Says Tenth of Population Will Be in Need This Winter—370,000 Families, 1,400,000 Persons, Given Assistance in Year.

New York.—The State Temporary Emergency Relief Administration declared that at least $10,000,000 a month should be spent for public unemployment relief in New York State this Winter. The belief was expressed that at least 10 per cent of the population of the State would be dependent for existence on subsidies from public or private agencies.

The estimates did not include funds to be raised privately and the budgets of the family welfare agencies.

The estimates were made in the report of the State Temporary Emergency Relief Administration on its activities from Nov. 1, 1931, to Sept. 15, 1932. During this period relief was given to 370,000 families, representing 1,400,000 persons.

The report was signed by Harry L. Hopkins, chairman; Charles D. Osborne, and John Sullivan. In addition to being a member of the Emergency Relief Administration, Mr. Sullivan is president of the New York State Federation of Labor.

"Indications of the Summer months," the report said, "point to the conclusion that within a few months there will be many more than the estimated 1,500,000 unemployed in the State who will be driven near the line between self-support and dependency on public aid.

"The problem of every citizen is not only to see that support is given to aid the unemployed, but sufficient support, so that the recession of this economic disaster will not reveal a vast amount of human wreckage, but a high average of sturdy citizens who were preserved, physically and mentally, through a period of devastating need.

The report said that those needing help do not apply "until they have been caught in the quicksand of debts to tradesmen, accumulated interest on mortgages, taxes on property of their own, if they have any, and complete destitution.

"They are at the end of their resources and the future earning power of many of them is impaired for years to come with unpaid debts to grocers, bakers, loan companies and whoever would extend them credit.

"Men and women who differ in education, training and background have been reduced to a common and urgent need. They were the strong factors in the economic life of the State less than four years ago. With some aid they will be conserved for the society of tomorrow."

FIGHT ALL RAIL WAGE CUTS, BROMLEY URGES

Secretary of British Engineers and Firemen Denounces Philosophy That Capital Must, Always Have Its Return, Regardless of What Happens to the Men Who Produce All the Profits.

Leicester, England.—Mr. John Bromley, general secretary of the Associated Society of Engineers and Firemen, at a mass meeting of locomotive men here, declared that the members of his union "should fight to the very last" the demand for further wage cuts made by the executives of the British railroad companies.

"The men must recognize, he said, that they would have to fight both the companies and the Government, but a halt had to be called, for as a profession they must refuse to accept a mere fodder basis for remuneration.

Thousands of drivers, he pointed out, had been reduced to firemen and firemen reduced to engine-cleaners. Thousands of engine-cleaners had been dismissed from the service.

There were large numbers of firemen who, in the present state of prosperity, would never become engine-drivers, and who, therefore, lost the higher rate of wages that they looked to them in due course.

The new organization applied to engine-cleaners who might never receive promotion to be firemen.

"In our opinion, therefore," Mr. Bromley declared, "our members must fight to the last ditch against this cut. We accept the philosophy that capital must always have its return, irrespective of what happens to the men who earn the whole of the profits.

"The fight has got to come sooner or later, and we might as well have it now."

Swedish Drill Helps British Idle Keep Up Their Spirits

Cardiff, England.—"The first course of physical training for unemployed men established by the British Ministry of Labor at Pontypridd proved a success in every way and promoting the bodily fitness and in developing a healthy psychological reaction in the jobless who took the instruction, according to the special correspondent of The London Times here.

"Started last July as an experiment," the Times correspondent said, "with the primary object of providing some means of maintaining the physical fitness of unemployed persons and of profitably filling some part of their enforced leisure, the course of instruction, which consists of 12 weeks. The exercises consisted mainly of Swedish drill under a competent instructor.

"It is felt that the training might, with great advantage to the unemployed and to the community in general, be extended to other areas in the coal fields where its need is becoming daily emphasized.

"The unemployed themselves, judging by the enthusiasm displayed by the majority of those attending, are eager to preserve their physical fitness for the day when work will be their lot once more."

Danville Miners Share Work On One Day Per Week Basis

Danville, Ill.—The deep spirit of brotherhood animating organized labor is written in the recent history of the miners employed in the Bunsenville mine of the United States Fuel Company, near Westville. The company also owns the Vermillion mine.

Last spring the company closed both mines. By the shutdown 1,911 men in the Bunsenville mine and 481 in the Vermillion mine lost their jobs.

In August the Bunsenville mine resumed operations after five months of idleness. In September, while the mine was only operating about two days a week, the men from the Vermillion mine asked for a part of the work.

After a thorough discussion of the matter the Bunsenville miners voted to share their work with the jobless men from the Vermillion mine, which gave them all only one day's work a week.

A. F. of L. President Delivers Pledge to Convention of New Union of Government Employes—Reviews Clasification Dispute — Charges Secession of National Federation Was Secured by Misrepresentation and Fraud.

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor will fight side by side with the American Federation of Government Employes to secure satisfactory classification, the five-day week, and retirement legislation, declared President William Green of the A. F. of L. told the delegates to the first convention of the new union of Government workers here.

Mr. Green outlined the events which led up to the secession from the American Federation of Labor of the National Federation of Federal Employes, allegedly because of the position of the A. F. of L. on the question of classification of Federal workers.

He declared the secession was brought about by leaders of the seceding group through "gross misrepresentation and fraud."

Progress of New Union

"The purpose of the American Federation of Labor," he said, "is to give the full measure of its support to the new organization.

"You are a part of the great American labor movement.

"If you stand united, if personalities are subordinated to the common good, you cannot fail.

"I am encouraged by the progress you have made in the short space of two weeks.

"Your organization is the beginning of an irresistible forward movement.

Militant Organization Urged

"You must make it the one organization cloaked with authority speaking for the Government employes.

"You have been organized after the most careful consideration was given to your problems by the A. F. of L. council.

"You must make it a militant and aggressive organization. We have the Federal employes, controlled by your membership and not by any dictator.

"We are banded together for a common purpose—to lift our standard of living.

Opposition to Seceders

"When the movement was started by the seceding organization to break away from our organization, we learned of the loss of thousands of Government employes opposed to the secession and we took them in.

Classification Misrepresentation

"I say that the secession was brought about by labor leaders of a dual organization through the most indefensible misrepresentation and fraud.

"It is said that the American Federation of Labor in its Vancouver convention in October, 1931, opposed classification of Federal employes.

"There is nothing in the Vancouver convention report that indicates any opposition to the principle of Federal Government service; as a matter of fact, the Vancouver convention declared itself in favor of it and willing to support any proposal designed to aid the Federal employes.

"I subordinated my personal feelings and did not oppose the bill, hoping to meet the demands of officials of the seceding organization.

"I accepted insults in order to save the break, and in spite of it all the break had to take place.

"The vote was 16,300 for secession and 11,400 against secession. I say that vote against secession was a mighty healthy minority.

Fraud Charge Made

"To back up my charges of fraud and misrepresentation, I offer you evidence of the vote taken by the Los Angeles Union on the secession question.

"There were 65 persons attending the meeting, but a large number of them were undecided and did not cast their vote.

"There were 17 votes in favor of secession and 11 against.

"Yet, in the official report issued by the officials of the seceding organization, the vote of the Los Angeles Union was given as 252 in favor of secession and the same 11 against.

"In the official report, the vote is given for the Paris, France, Union as 214 for secession and none against.

"I leave you to draw your own conclusions about that.

Mr. Green predicted that serious problems would be faced by Government employes in the coming session of Congress.

Budget Balancing and Living Standards

"There will be further economies sought and labor will be called upon to make further sacrifices," he said.

"However, I am firmly convinced that they can find a way to balance the budget without lowering standards of living of the men and women who serve the Government.

"The American Federation of Labor is planning to support a classification measure that will protect all employes of the Government service.

"The American Federation of Labor is planning for a five-day work week in the Government service without affecting the pay of the Federal workers."

Old-Age Pension Referendum Before Voters of Missouri

St. Louis, Mo.—Under the constitution of the State of Missouri, the Legislature cannot enact an old-age pension law. This constitutional defect, all of the Missouri labor unions, the clergy, business men, professional men and public officials are conducting a campaign in favor of adopting by referendum vote a constitutional amendment which Legislature the authority it now lacks.

The voters will act on the referendum at the November election. Trade unionists and other forward-looking citizens are confident in the conviction that the referendum will be adopted, and thus place Missouri in line for an adequate old-age pension system.